

AKRON HISTORY TRAILS

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS



Summit County
Historical Society



The City of Akron

Akron A.A. Archives

Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3
and American Toy Marble Museum

Akron Fire Department

Akron Police Department

Akron-Summit County
Public Library

Cascade Locks Park Association

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Downtown Akron Partnership

FirstMerit Corporation

Hower House

Dr. Shirla R. McClain Gallery
of Akron's Black History

Metro RTA

Metro Parks Serving
Summit County

Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens

TV Dinner Club Museum

The University of Akron
Archival Services

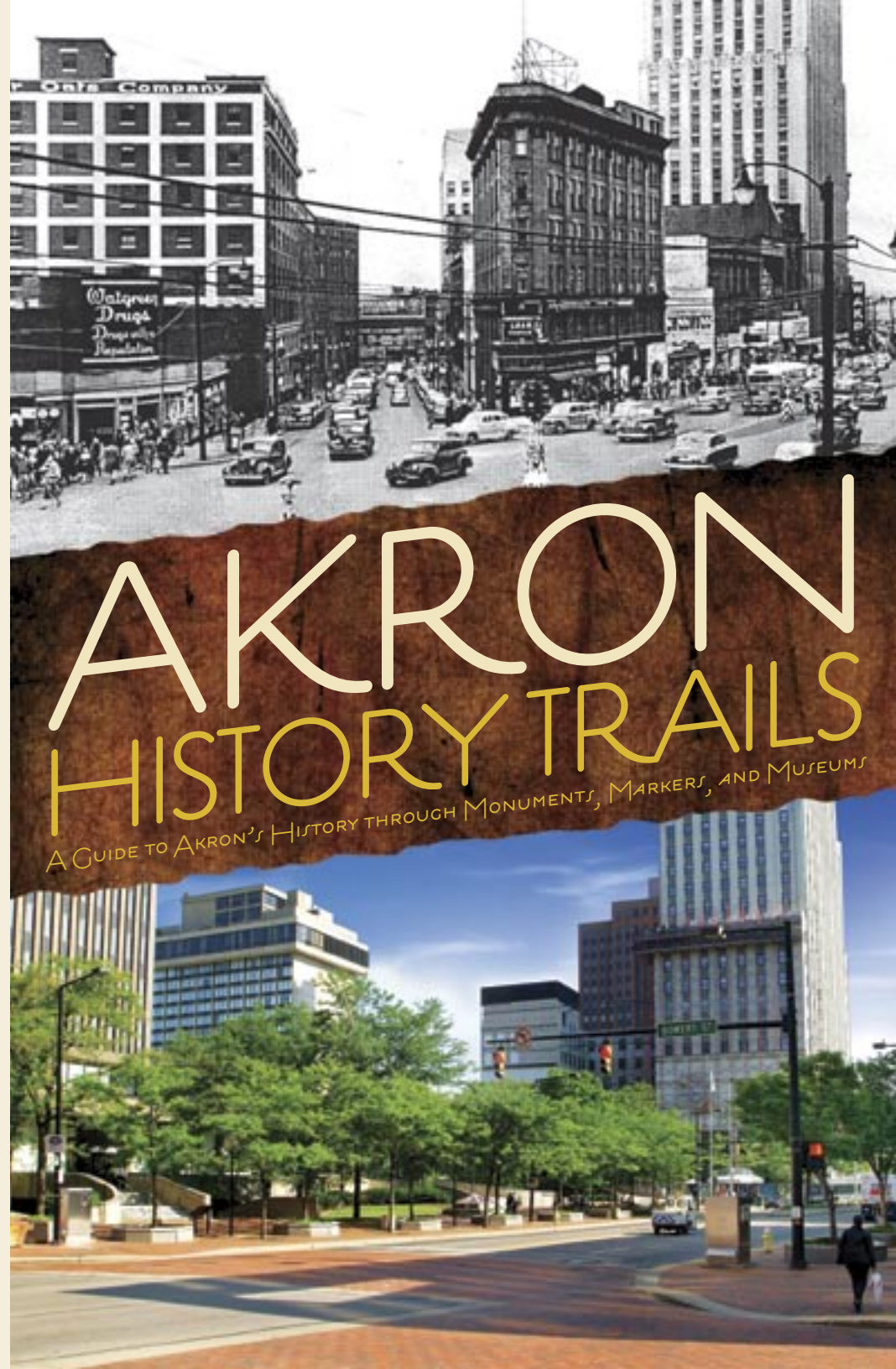
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AKRON

PUBLISHING COMPANY

www.summithistory.org

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FROM MAYOR DON PLUSQUELLIC...



Welcome to Akron's History! Built on the Ohio & Erie Canal, Akron was a rough-and-tumble town founded in 1825 by sturdy New Englanders with the help of Irish and German immigrants. Not far from today's intersection of Main and Exchange streets, canal boats were constructed. The canal carried the oatmeal that fed Union troops during the Civil War, a home-grown industry that eventually made Akron famous for the cereal "shot from guns."

The invention and manufacture of farm machinery first made Akron a recognizable name around the world, and later - the rubber and tire business, which dominated Akron for a century. It was here that the motor carrier industry began and where rigid airships became airborne.

Along the way, we became known as a bastion of abolition, women's rights, temperance, the birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous, and more.

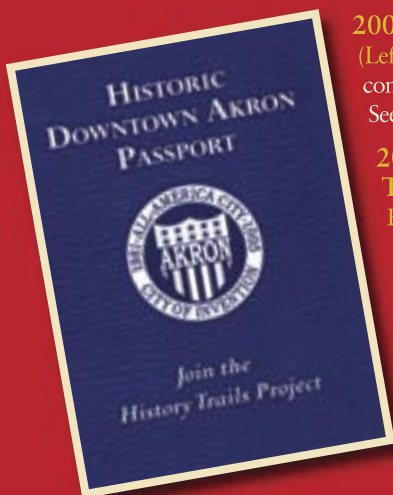
In 2006, Akron's first "History Trails" project involved more than 8,000 people as they helped us celebrate the 75th anniversary of some of Akron's landmark buildings. Each person who participated was given a "passport," with the challenge of getting a stamp in each of 22 separate blocks at each site they visited.

Over 100 individuals, including many children, completed all 22 stops.

In 2007, you can still obtain stamps in your "passport," printed on the inside back cover of this book. More importantly, this is a guide to learning why Akron has been disproportionately successful, and lucky, in the 182 years since its founding.

Today, with the Ohio & Erie Canalway linking downtown to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Akron continues to astound our visitors. See you along the trail.

Don Plusquellic
Mayor of Akron



2006 AKRON HISTORY TRAILS PASSPORT

(Left) Over 100 individuals, including many children, completed all 22 stops. See the inside back cover for this year's passport.

2007 AKRON HISTORY TRAILS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Akron Publishing Company

Photos: Bruce Ford

Thanks to each of our contributing organizations.
Listed on the back cover.



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AKRON HISTORY EXHIBIT AT LOCK 3 AND AMERICAN TOY MARBLE MUSEUM

In 2001, The City of Akron demolished a line of buildings along South Main Street, restoring a view of Lock 3 of the Ohio & Erie Canal never before seen by anyone living today. The vista, visible for the first time in a hundred years, extends from Bowery Street to State Street.

As plans were being made for the first season of Lock 3 Live! in 2002, the City and the Summit County Historical Society assembled a coalition to share Akron's history resources. The result was the Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3 and American Toy Marble Museum.

Exhibits here tell the stories of Akron's rich industrial heritage—from the building of canal boats and agricultural implements, to the manufacturing of cereal, from rubber, tires, and over-the-road trucking, to lighter-than-air flight.

Akron's whimsical past is on display as well, as artifacts excavated from the ground remind us that the American Marble & Toy Manufacturing Co. once stood on this very site.

The museum gates had been in storage since the renovation of the Summit County Courthouse in the 1960s. Artists P.R. Miller and John Communale restored the gates and created the metal sculpture at the entrance. Since the museum's opening, more than 75,000 visitors have passed through them.



Hours: Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
and during Lock 3 Events

Admission & Parking: Free!

The Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3
and American Toy Marble Museum
is located at Lock 3 Park, roughly 200 South Main St.
in Downtown Akron.

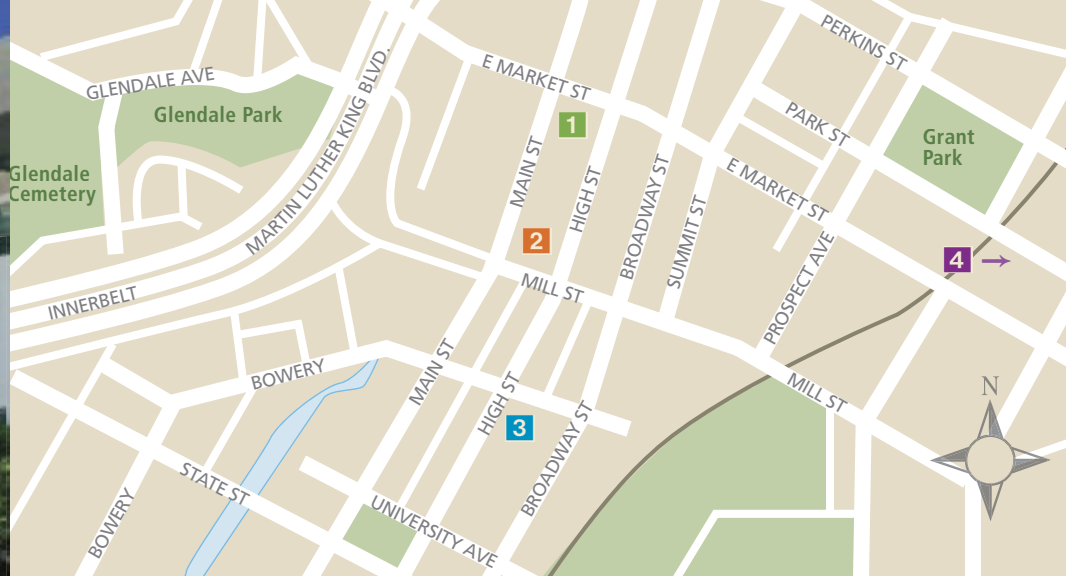
Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3 and American Toy Marble Museum Partners

Akron-Summit County Public Library
American Toy Marble Museum
Lighter-Than-Air Society
Motor Carrier Museum
Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition
Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens
Summit County Historical Society
TV Dinner Club Museum
The University of Akron Archival Services

The Exhibit is supported by volunteers
and grants from The City of Akron.

Find out more at:
www.akronmarbles.com

DOWNTOWN MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES




1 Akron-Summit County Public Library

The Special Collections Division houses both local history and genealogy collections. Its local history collections include those relating to Bain E. “Shorty” Fulton, Northern Ohio Golf Charities, Trucking History, Ohio Ballet and Metro Parks, to name a few. Genealogy materials include research databases, periodicals, maps, county and family histories, newspapers, and vital, military and immigration records.

Akron-Summit County Public Library Special Collections Division

60 South High Street, Third Floor

Akron, Ohio 44326 

Phone: 330-643-9030

Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Find more information online at:
www.akronlibrary.org

2 The University of Akron Archival Services


Archival Services maintains collections related to the University as well as to local governments, businesses, labor unions, and civic organizations within a nine-county region of northeast Ohio.

The Archives has collections relating to the rubber industry, lighter-than-air flight, canal history, and the archives of the Summit County Historical Society. Admission is free and the archives are open to the general public.

Archival Services

The University of Akron

Polsky Building Room LL10

Akron, OH 44325-1702 

Phone: 330-972-7670

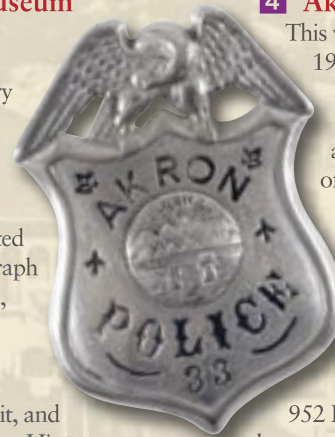
Hours:

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Find more information online at:
www3.uakron.edu/ul/archives

3 Akron Police Museum

From the macabre to the inspiring, this museum captures the exciting history of law enforcement in the “Rubber City.” On display are patches, badges, news clippings, photographs, weapons, confiscated drug paraphernalia, polygraph and breathalyzer machines, equipment, uniforms, a motorcycle, counterfeit money, an infrared identification kit, and an Akron Police Department History book.




Free and open to the general public.
To schedule a tour call 330-375-2390.

Akron Police Museum Police Community Relations

Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center, Room 402

217 South High Street

Akron, Ohio 44308 

Phone: 330-375-2390

Hours:

Mon.-Fri. 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

4 Akron Fire History Exhibit

This working fire station dates to 1946 and is home to seven on-duty firefighters who welcome guests to view the City’s firefighting apparatus of today and the artifacts of its firefighting past, including photographs of one of the nation’s first motorized fire trucks, breathing equipment, protective gear, a firehouse pole, and much more.

Akron Fire History Exhibit

Akron Fire Station #2

952 E. Exchange St. (at S. Arlington St., about one mile from Downtown Akron)



DOWNTOWN MONUMENTS AND MARKERS



Simon Perkins Statue

The University of Akron College of Business
Located at Broadway

Wendell Willkie Plaque

Summit County Courthouse
Located at Broadway & South High St.

Charles Goodyear Statue

Goodyear Park
Located at South High St.

“Spirit of the American Doughboy” Statue

Summit County Courthouse
Located at Broadway & South High St.

Henry Clark’s Tavern Plaque

Evans Savings Building
Located at Main & Exchange St.

URW Memorial Garden

SummaCare Building
Located at North Main

1936 Akron Rubber Strike (OHS)*

Knight Center
Located East Mill St.

Sojourner Truth (OHS)*

ODJFS Building
Located at North High St.

John S. Knight (SDX)**

Akron Beacon Journal Building
Located at South High & Exchange St.

Eternal Flame

Safety Building
Located at South High & University St.

Centennial Boulder

Summit County Courthouse
Located at Broadway & South High St.

John R. Buchtel Statue

The University of Akron, Buchtel Commons

Mathews Hotel (OHS)*

Northside
Located at Howard & Perkins St.

The Cascade Valley (OHS)*

The Mustill Site
Located at Howard & North St.

World War II Memorial

The University of Akron, Memorial Hall

Korean War Memorial

The University of Akron, Buchtel Commons

Vietnam War Memorial

Safety Building
Located at South High & University St.

Irish Heritage Markers (2)

Considine Building, Lock 2 Park
Located behind Water St.

Polio Epidemic Plaque

Akron Children’s Hospital
Located at State & Bowery St.

U.S. Synthetic Rubber Program National Chemical Historic Landmark

The University of Akron Polymer Center
Located at University Avenue Circle





THE OHIO & ERIE CANAL TOWPATH THROUGH DOWNTOWN AKRON

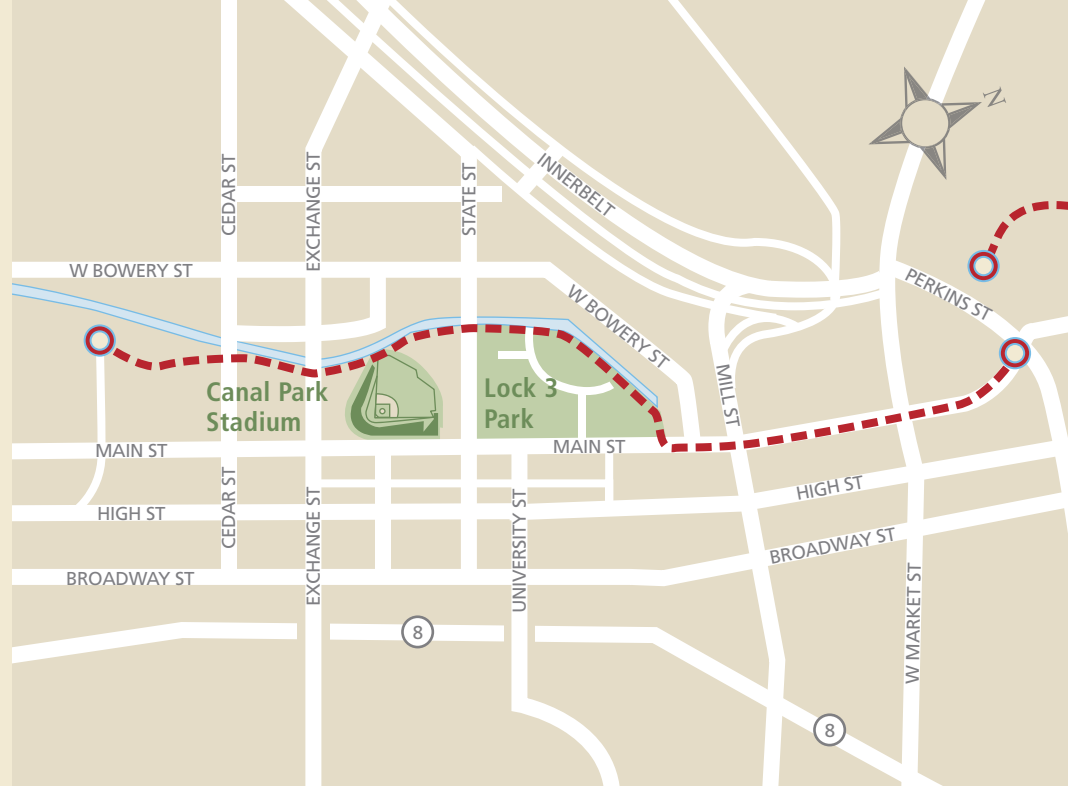
As you hike along the newest section of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, take a moment to imagine life in our city 160 years ago. The men, women and children who worked and lived on the canal connected Ohio to the rest of the world and forever changed Ohio's wilderness.

This trail, which opened between Cleveland and Akron in 1827, was the highway that transported Ohio's abundant natural resources to the rest of the country and brought manufactured goods back to those living in various canal towns and villages. The canal was not only a well-used transportation corridor for humans, but was also well-traveled by fish and other wildlife.

The Ohio & Erie Canal still flows through and beneath our city--a monument to the birth of cities and industry in Ohio.

Akron, the summit or high point on the north-south route, was also at the junction of two canals, the Ohio & Erie and the Pennsylvania & Ohio. As a result, industry, goods and services expanded rapidly here. From paper companies and mills, to toy manufacturers and cereal giants, Akron is home to the spirit of invention.

While the canal's significance declined with the introduction of railroads and it was abandoned after the flood of 1913, the rebuilding of the Towpath Trail is a tribute to the strength and industry of our community and a celebration of our future. Join us to hike or bicycle on the trail. It is your history, your legacy, and your trail!



For more information about the trail, including locations and directions for trailheads in Akron, visit

www.summitmetroparks.org/parks/towpath.shtml

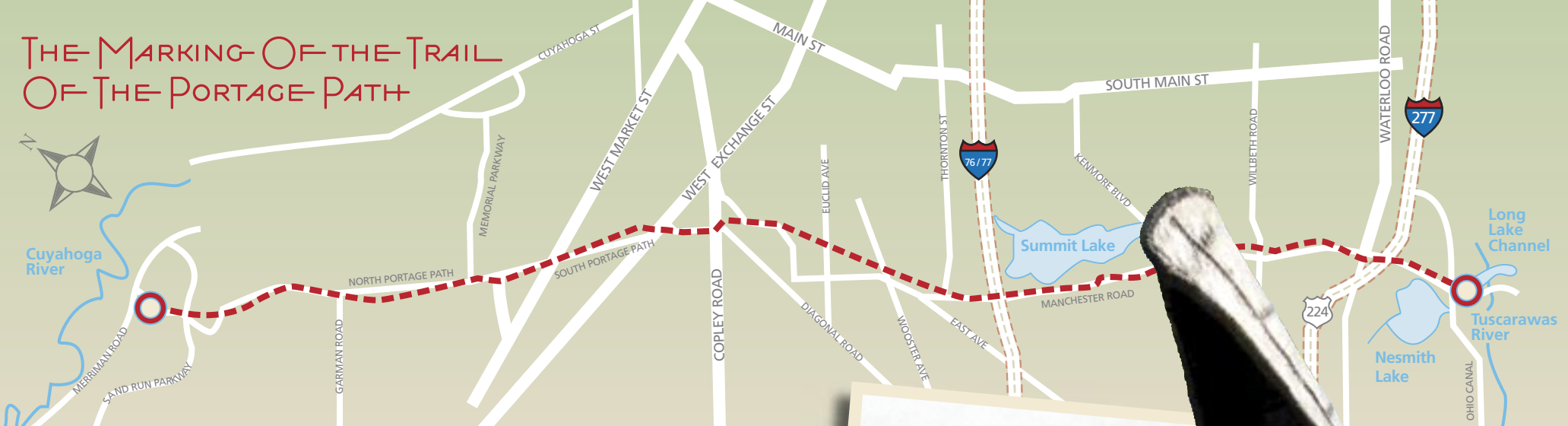


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9

THE MARKING-OF-THE-TRAIL OF-THE-PORTAGE-PATH



The Portage Path, Akron's prehistoric treasure, was first created by the elk, bison and deer that inhabited these forests.

The First People further developed the eight-mile trail, perhaps as long as 10,000 years ago. Travelers used the trail to carry, or "portage," their canoes from the Cuyahoga River across the Continental Divide to Summit Lake and the Tuscarawas River. The path was probably used by the Shawnee, Delaware, Iroquois and Huron people—Wyandots, Ottawas, and Miami.

Later, the path served as the boundary designating land legally open to European settlement. Territory west of the portage was reserved to native people in the Treaty of Fort McIntosh in 1785.

To European explorers who arrived here 300 years ago, the portage was a visible landmark. Moses Warren surveyed its exact location in 1797 and, at present-day Merriman Road, saw "Old Cuyahoga Town,"

which had been occupied by as many as 2500 Delawares (Lene Lenape) since Europeans first arrived in the area.



The northern terminus of the Portage Path is at the big bend of the Cuyahoga River, while the southern terminus is at the northern tip of Long Lake channel on the Tuscarawas River.

Both ends are marked by a bronze statue of a Native American portaging a canoe.

He wears a breechcloth and headpiece typical of the time. Peter Jones, a Seneca-Onondaga artist from the Cattaraugus Indian

Reservation in New York whose work has been exhibited in the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, designed and sculpted the statues.

The Blade Markers

Fifty broad blade markers, a result of three years of research conducted by William S. Yeck and Jeffrey P. Miller, show, for the first time, the exact route of the Portage Path as it traverses the city of Akron.



Young's Restaurant

*Tuscarawas Terminus
Manchester Road*

Moses Warren and the first group of surveyors of the Portage Path reached the south terminus at the Tuscarawas River on July 20, 1797. There, they noted the existence of a "signal tree," which had been a guidepost for native people.

For the last 150 years, this area has been the home of Young's Restaurant, a landmark on the Ohio & Erie Canal since it was built around 1850. The City of Akron has proposed to purchase the structure for use by visitors to the Canalway.

Above : Young's Restaurant.

Right : Trailhead marker statue.





Richard Howe House

Corner of East Exchange and South High Streets

Known as “Howe Mansion” by canal travelers, this 1836 high-style Federal structure was home to Richard Howe, Ohio & Erie Canal Resident Engineer. The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition is restoring it as a visitor’s center for the Towpath Trail.

The Old Stone School

Corner of Broadway and Buchtel

The Old Stone School was built in 1840 on land donated by General Simon Perkins. The Summit County Historical Society restored the school in 1967 and still owns it. Akron Public Schools operates it as a living history site where students learn about the school experience of the 1800s.

Perkins Stone Mansion

Corner of South Portage Path and Copley Road

Built in 1837, the mansion is among the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the Western Reserve and portrays Akron’s founding family during Victorian America. General Simon Perkins helped bring the canal through the new town of Akron, which he co-founded with Paul Williams.

His son, Colonel Simon Perkins, and his family were the first residents.

John Brown House

Corner of Copley and Diagonal Roads

Abolitionist John Brown, soon to win fame at Harper’s Ferry, rented the then two-room cottage near Perkins Stone Mansion in 1844. Brown lived here while working with Simon Perkins, Jr. in the wool trade. The house depicts Brown’s significance as symbolic hero and martyr of the antislavery movement.

Glendale Cemetery

150 Glendale Avenue

Dr. J.D. Commins founded this cemetery, originally known as Akron Rural Cemetery, in 1839. Designed to mimic nature, the site provided a tranquil respite from downtown industry. Centerpieces include the Gothic Revival Memorial Chapel, the Bell Tower, the Office and Caretaker’s buildings.

Classic motifs abound on the mausoleums and gravestones. Many Akron founders and leaders are interred here including Lewis Miller John R. Buchtel, John F. Seiberling, John H. Hower, and A.L. Conger.

The Perkins Stone Mansion

is open for tours Wednesday-Saturday from 1-4 pm. Groups may call the office to schedule special tour days and times (no Monday tours). Visitors are encouraged to walk the grounds of the John Brown House.

Summit County Historical Society

550 Copley Road

Akron, OH 44320

Phone: 330-535-1120

www.summithistory.org

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Admission:

\$6.00 adults, \$4.00 seniors and children or groups of 10 or more;
\$2.00 for school tours

Glendale Cemetery

150 Glendale Avenue

Akron, OH 44302

phone: 330-253-2317

Hours: open dawn to dusk daily.

The cemetery’s office is open

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition

520 South Main Street, Suite 2452

Akron, Ohio 44311

Phone: 330-434-5657

<http://www.ohioericanal.org/howehouse.html>

*The Old Stone School
as it appears today.*

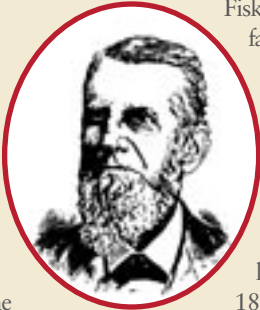


AN INDUSTRIAL TRAIL: AKRON'S CERAMICS INDUSTRY

The Story of Summit County's potteries begins 17,000 years ago with the melting of the Hiram Ice Sheet which deposited a huge bed of clay as a part of the Sciotoville horizon.

In 1796, the Western Reserve Land Co. surveyed the area showing lumber, coal and clay along with a waterway. They sent samples of clay to potters enticing them to bring their commerce to this area.

News of these clay beds, their suitability for manufacturing and the opening of the canal system in 1827 for transportation, meant potters weren't far behind. The first known potter to mass-produce goods in this area was Daniel Fisk in 1828 at Springfield, now Ellet/Mogadore.



Fisk hired P.H. Smith in 1828 and Edwin H. Merrill in 1830. By 1833, E.H. Merrill had enough experience and capital to buy out Fisk and Smith and continued to manufacture from that location until 1847.

Merrill then moved to Middlebury until 1861 when, like many other local potters, he moved closer to the source of transportation, the canal in Akron. Merrill's pottery was located at 202 South Main St. from 1861 until his death in 1881.

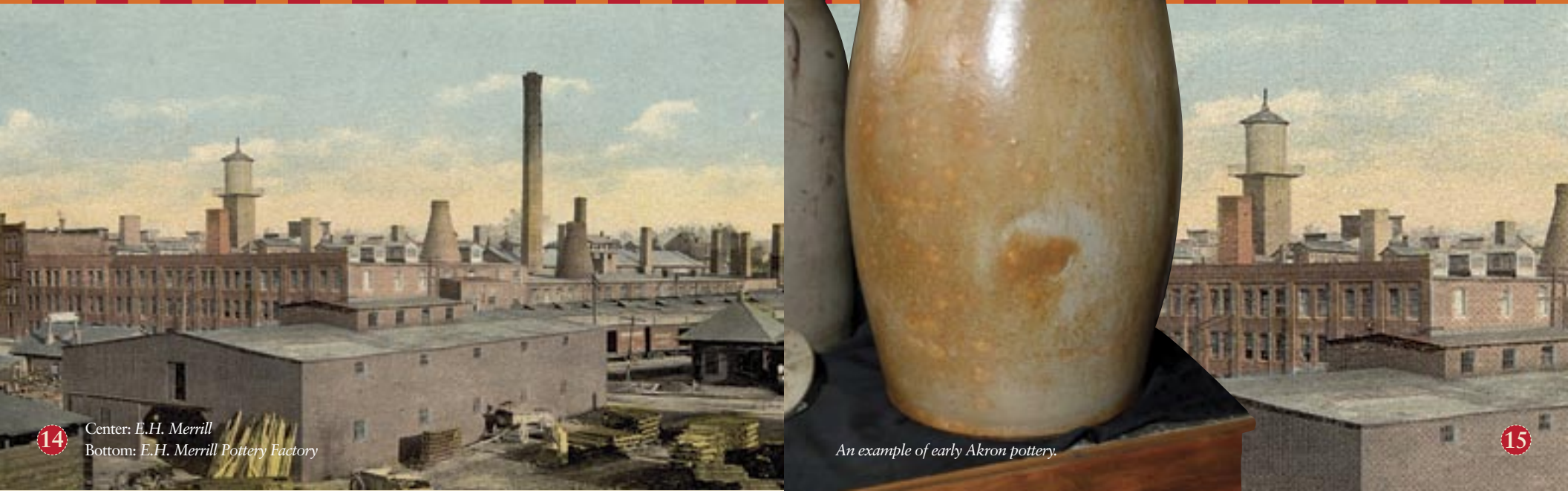
Today, Lock 3 Park is the location where E.H. Merrill's journey ended and the pottery history trail begins. Visit the Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3 Park where examples of Summit County pottery are on display.



Hours: Saturday 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. and during Lock 3 Events

Admission & Parking: Free!

The Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3 and American Toy Marble Museum is located at Lock 3 Park, roughly 200 South Main St. in Downtown Akron.



An example of early Akron pottery.

AN INDUSTRIAL TRAIL: SERVING THE NATION'S AGRICULTURE FROM AKRON.



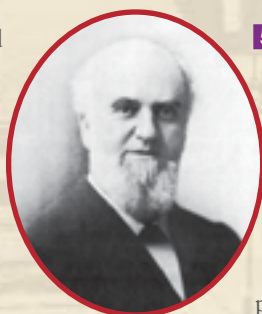
The manufacture of farm machinery was an important industry in post-Civil War Akron. Reapers and mowers made by local companies made Akron a recognized name in the farming industry. Many of Akron's early industrialists, including Lewis Miller, John R. Buchtel, John F. Seiberling, John H. Hower, and A.L. Conger were engaged in this industry.

1 Aultman, Miller & Co.
Lewis Miller's Buckeye Mower and Reaper, an innovative and vastly improved machine for cutting wheat and other crops, helped to revolutionize 19th century farming. By 1881, this factory, also known as the Buckeye Mower and Reaper Works, was producing 20,000 pieces of farm equipment per day.

2 Oak Place
In 1870, Lewis Miller built Oak Place, a grand home on a hill overlooking the city. Site of the 1886 wedding of Thomas Alva Edison and Mina Miller, daughter of Lewis and Mary, it is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Inset: Aultman, Miller & Co. Factory Headquarters.
Center: Lewis Miller, inventor of the Buckeye Mower.

16



3 Glendale Cemetery
Akron farm machinery industrialists Lewis Miller, John R. Buchtel, John F. Seiberling, John H. Hower, and A.L. Conger are buried here.

4 National Inventors Hall of Fame
In 2006, Lewis Miller was inducted into Akron's National Inventors Hall of Fame for his invention of the Buckeye Mower and Reaper.

5 First Methodist Episcopal Church - The Akron Plan
Lewis Miller, along with Akron architect, Jacob Snyder, designed First Methodist Episcopal Church, the city's first Akron Plan church. This design included Sunday school classrooms arranged around the perimeter of the sanctuary, allowing children to enter the assembly area at the beginning or conclusion of their lessons. Constructed in 1871, it burned to the ground in 1911. The Akron Plan design was adopted by hundreds of churches throughout the country during the 19th Century.

6 First Congregational Church
The oldest remaining example of an Akron Plan Church. Built in 1910, it was rededicated in 2006 following an extensive restoration project. In 2004, it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

7 Akron Iron Company and Akron Rolling Mills
To supply iron for his factory, Lewis Miller established a foundry and mill. Iron ore for these plants was obtained locally.

8 Excelsior Mower & Reaper Works
In 1865, John F. Seiberling, and John H. Hower opened the J. F. Seiberling Company, more commonly known as Excelsior Mower & Reaper.

9 Empire Mower Works
In the mid-1870s, John F. Seiberling established a factory and began manufacturing the Empire Mower and Reaper. In 1880, he purchased the closed Excelsior site and moved his factory there. Officially known as J.F. Seiberling & Company, it also produced binders and harvesters.

10 Akron Knife Works
Established in 1868, this factory, led by A. L. Conger, produced knives and parts for harvesting machinery.

11 Exhibit: Lewis Miller: a Renaissance Man in 19th Century Akron
Through August 2007

Akron-Summit County Public Library
Special Collections Division
Main Library - Third Floor
Phone: 330-643-9030

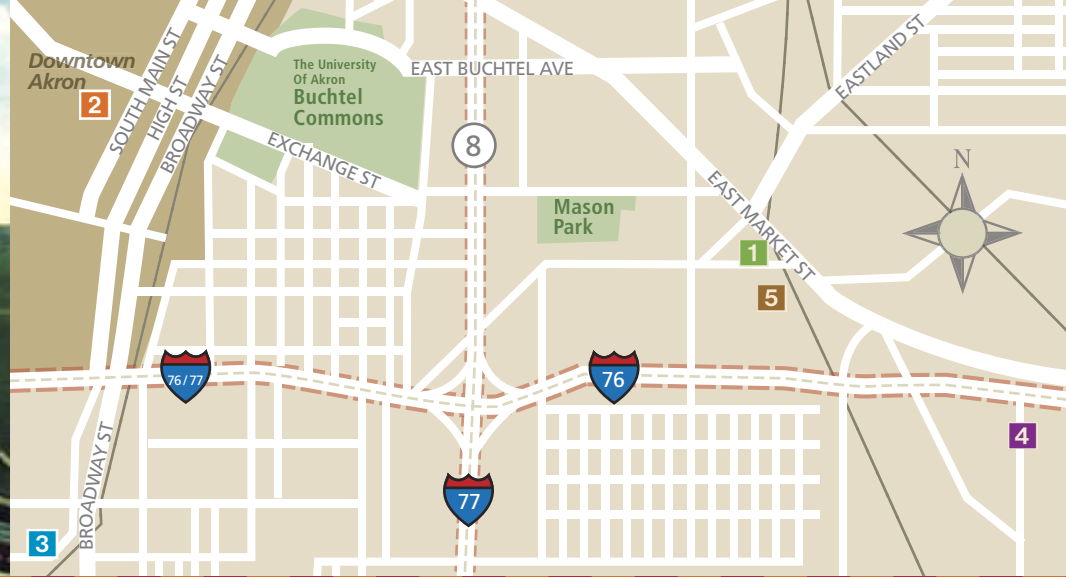
www.akronlibrary.org



Right: A Buckeye mowing and reaping machine.

17

AN INDUSTRIAL TRAIL: THE RUBBER INDUSTRY



An Industrial Trail: The Rubber Industry

Just as the automotive industry influenced the history of Detroit, so the rubber industry shaped the history of Akron.

1 Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

1144 East Market Street

When founded by Frank Seiberling in 1898, Goodyear produced bicycle and carriage tires, horseshoe pads and poker chips. It became the world's largest tire company in 1916 and brought rigid airship construction to the U.S. in 1924. Having ceased tire production in 1978, the plant is now a technical center.

2 B. F. Goodrich Company

500 South Main Street

Benjamin Franklin Goodrich moved his factory to Akron in 1871. Its innovations include synthetic rubber production, the tubeless tire and space suits. Goodrich halted tire production in Akron in 1975 and exited the tire business completely in 1988. It became Goodrich Corporation in 2001. The former plant is now the Canal Place complex.

3 Firestone Tire & Rubber Company

1290 South Main Street,
later 1200 Firestone Parkway

Harvey S. Firestone established this company in 1900 to assemble carriage wheels. Its innovative tire design, involvement in automobile racing, service stations and weekly radio program made Firestone a household name. Plant 2 closed in 1978 and was demolished. Plant 1 closed in 1980 but remains as part of Bridgestone Firestone North America Tire.



4 General Tire & Rubber Co.

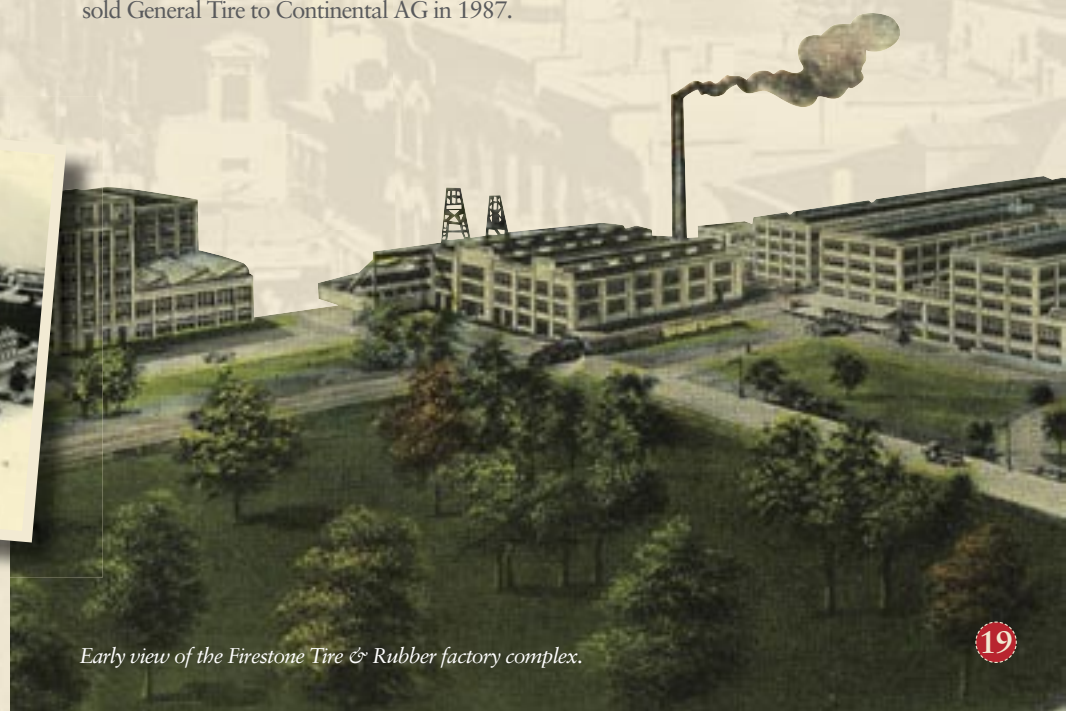
East Market and Holmes,
later 1 General

William F. O'Neil founded General in 1915. After purchasing the Yankee Network in 1943 and RKO Radio Pictures in 1955, the company ended tire production in 1982. The plant and headquarters were later demolished. The company reorganized into GenCorp in 1984 and sold General Tire to Continental AG in 1987.

5 Mohawk Rubber Company

1235 Second Avenue

Mohawk was founded in the former plant of the Stein Double Cushion Tire Co. in 1913 by S. S. Miller, Francis Seiberling, J. K. Williams, C. W. MacLaughlin, R. M. Pilmore and F. J. Mishler. This truck tire factory closed in 1978 and was razed in 1983 to make room for a Goodyear parking lot.





STAN HYWET HALL & GARDENS

Stan Hywet Hall was built between 1912-1915 by the founder of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, F. A. Seiberling, and his wife Gertrude. They built their country estate and named it Stan Hywet (Old English for stone quarry) after the property's most prominent natural feature. Designed by architect Charles S. Schneider, the Manor House is one of the finest examples of Tudor Revival architecture in America.

The grounds of Stan Hywet were designed by Boston landscape architect Warren H. Manning. Manning sought inspiration from the natural topography and wanted the landscape and house to complement each other. The walled English Garden has often been described as Gertrude Seiberling's favorite garden refuge.

Although Manning originally designed the garden, it did not match Mrs. Seiberling's

original vision for the space. In 1929, the Seiberlings hired renowned female landscape architect Ellen Biddle Shipman, who redesigned the garden. Restored in 1989-1992, it is one of the only intact Shipman gardens open to the public.

The Carriage House currently houses the Museum Shop and Café. The Corbin Conservatory, replicated and reopened in 2005, is home to a very popular exotic butterfly display. The Gate Lodge was formally dedicated as the "Birthplace of Alcoholics Anonymous" in 2000 and was renovated and reopened to the public in 2004.

Celebrating 50 years as a public institution, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens is Akron's only National Historic Landmark and Save America's Treasures project. It is accredited by the American Association of Museums.



Tours:

Tuesday - Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tours begin at 11:00 a.m. and the

Grounds are open until 6:00 p.m.

For more information about Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, as well as a calendar of upcoming events visit www.stanhywet.org



Tour Options

Parking is included with all types of admission.

Gardens, Gate Lodge, & Greenhouse

Members: Free

Non-Member Adult: \$8.00

Non-Member Student 6-17: \$4.00

Self-Guided Manor House Tour

Members: Free

Non-Member Adult: \$12.00

Non-Member Student 6-17: \$6.00

Guided Manor House Tour

Member Adult: \$13.00

Member Student 6-17: \$6.00

Non-Member Adult: \$18.00

Non-Member Student 6-17: \$8.00

Nooks & Crannies Manor House Tour

Member Adult: \$20.00

Member Student 6-17: \$8.00

Non-Member Adult: 25.00

Non-Member Student 6-17: \$10.00

American Country Estate Tour

Member Adult: \$25.00

Member Student 6-17: \$10.00

Non-Member Adult: \$30.00

Non-Member Student 6-17: \$12.00

Other Pricing Discounts:

Seniors & Military with ID:

50% off admission on Tuesdays only.

AAA with ID: \$1 off admission

THE HOWER HOUSE



Hower House

John Henry Hower, a leading Akron industrialist who was active in the milling, reaping and cereal industries, completed this house in 1871. Hower and architect Jacob Snyder designed it in the Second Empire Italianate style. The three-story, 28-room mansion is capped with a mansard roof and soaring tower and has a ballroom on the third floor.

The Hower family occupied the house for 100 years before it was deeded to The University of Akron in 1970. Its two and a half acres of lawn and stately trees provide a green island of tranquility for the campus community.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Hower House remains one of the finest and best-preserved examples of its style in the country. Visitors are welcome to view its unique architecture and hundreds of treasures and furnishings that the Hower family collected from around the world.

Adventures Along the Silk Road:

A Taste of the Orient

Join us for Adventures Along the Silk Road: A Taste of the Orient, a summer exhibit that highlights the many treasures collected by the Hower Family in their travels through Asia. See items from the permanent collection as well as from the family's private collection, exhibited here for the first time. The event continues through September 2, 2007.

Hower House

60 Fir Hill

The University of Akron
Akron, Ohio 44304

Phone: 330-972-6909

Hours:

Wednesday-Saturday, Noon - 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

closed during the month of January.

Admission:

\$6.00 adults, \$5.00 senior citizens (65 and older), \$2.00 student, children six and under admitted free. Free parking.

Find out more information online at:

www3.uakron.edu/howershse

AKRON'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY



John Brown

The Dr. Shirla R. McClain Gallery of Akron's Black History and Culture

Dr. Shirla R. McClain was an Akron educator and historian and a three-time graduate of The University of Akron. Her doctoral dissertation, *The Contribution of Blacks in Akron's History: 1825-1975*, concerns the many stories, events, personalities, rituals, and myths of the city's African American community. Her dissertation and tireless efforts to collect information served as the inspiration for the gallery.

The purpose of the Gallery is to reflect and develop the self-conscious history of the African American community in greater Akron as an important part of the history and culture of greater Akron, the state of Ohio, and the United States. The goal of the gallery is to develop and display exhibits and related programs that portray the history and culture of Akron's African American community; to be "a community repository" and a teaching vehicle of the African American experience in Greater Akron.

The Legend of John Brown

Currently on display in the Dr. Shirla R. McClain Gallery is "The Legend of John Brown" by artist Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000).

The exhibit consists of twenty-two silk screen prints that tell the story of Akron resident John Brown, a 19th century abolitionist who organized and led an anti-slavery raid on Harpers Ferry, Virginia in 1859.

The Dr. Shirla R. McClain Gallery

220 Wolf Ledges Parkway
Buckingham Center for Continuing Education
Room 102
Akron, Ohio 44325-1801
Phone: 330-972-7030



Other Historic sites to visit around the city:

The Akron Urban League

440 Vernon Odom Boulevard
www.akronul.org

East Akron Community House

550 South Arlington Street
www.eastakron.com

Harold K. Stubbs Justice Center

217 South High Street

John Brown Monument

East of Perkins Park Drive at Auldfarm Road

John Brown House

514 Diagonal Road

Mathews Hotel Plaque

At the corner of Howard Street and Route 59

Sojourner Truth Building

37 North High Street

Wesley Temple AME Zion Church, Founded 1866

104 North Prospect Street
www.wesleytemple.com

THE FOUNDING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN AKRON

In the spring of 1935, New York stockbroker Bill W. made a call from his room in Akron's Mayflower Hotel to Reverend Walter Tunks of St. Paul's Episcopal Church searching for another alcoholic to help him keep from drinking. With that call, Alcoholics Anonymous was born.

Reverend Tunks gave Bill several names, including that of Henrietta Seiberling. When Bill called her the next day, it was an answer to her prayers for Dr. Bob S. She brought Bill and Dr. Bob together for a meeting in the Gate Lodge of Stan Hywet. Dr. Bob, for the first time, spoke to someone who truly understood his malady.

Following the meeting, Henrietta secured a room for Bill at the Portage Country Club for two weeks. He later moved into

Dr. Bob's home at 855 Ardmore Avenue for a few months before returning to New York.

Prior to Bill's return home, he and Dr. Bob carried their message to Bill D. in Akron City Hospital.

When Bill D. left the hospital on July 4, 1935 never to drink again, Group #1 was formed.

Group #1 met at the home of T. Henry on Palisades Drive for over four years before moving to King School in 1940.

Today, the group meets every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. at First Grace United Church of Christ on South Portage Path.

Dr. Bob and Sister Ignatia Gavin worked with over 5,000 alcoholic patients at St. Thomas Hospital before his death in 1950. He is buried at Mount Peace Cemetery.



Today, Alcoholics Anonymous is considered one of the greatest social and spiritual movements of the last century. Visitors from around the world gather here in Akron each June for Founders' Day to celebrate Dr. Bob's last drink and the birth of Alcoholics Anonymous. Find out more at: www.akronaaarchives.org

Akron A.A. Archives is located at 775 North Main St. in Downtown Akron.

Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Admission: Free!



1 Dr. Bob's House

855 Ardmore Street
Open daily, Noon – 3:00 p.m.

2 Stan Hywet / Gate Lodge

714 N Portage Path

3 Portage Country Club

240 N Portage Path

4 King School

805 Memorial Parkway

5 Present King Meeting

First Grace United Church of Christ
350 S Portage Path
Meeting daily at 8:00 p.m.

6 Smith Tombstone

Across from 230 Aqueduct
Highland Square Area

7 Society Bank - Dr. Bob's Office

Bowery Street
Downtown Akron

8 Mayflower Hotel

263 S Main Street
Downtown Akron

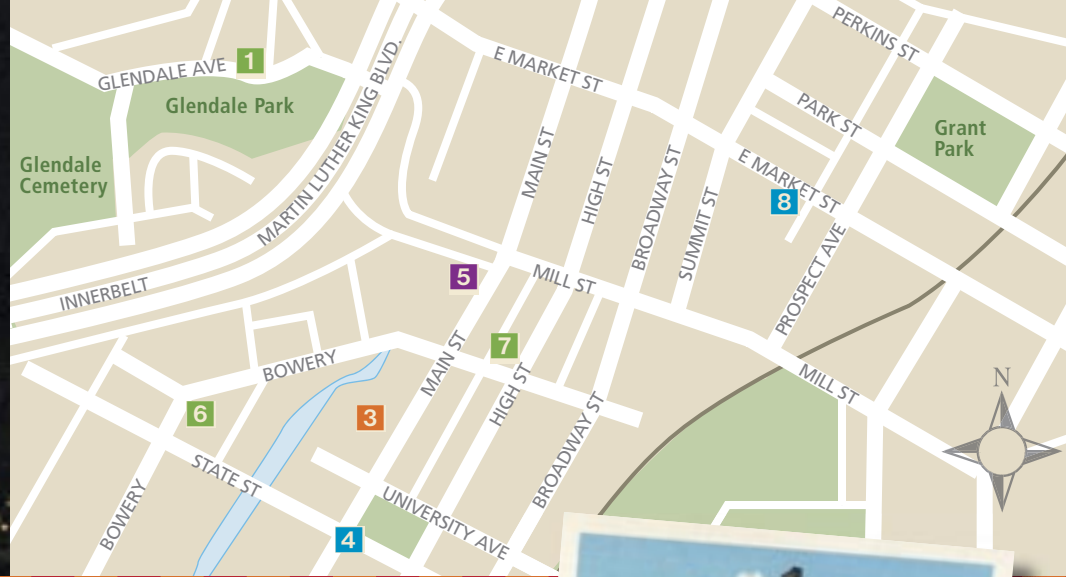
9 St. Thomas Hospital

444 N Main Street
Downtown Akron

10 Akron A.A. Archives

775 N Main Street
Downtown Akron

THE GREAT DEPRESSION



75 Years Ago: The Great Depression

Akron was as hard-hit as any other place in the U.S. by the Great Depression, but the city also saw the construction of some of its finest structures during this time.

1 Glendale Steps

Built over a two-year period, from 1936-1937, by the Federal Works Progress Administration, the Glendale Steps survive as a monument to the work of stone craftsmen during the Great Depression. Spanning a 200-foot slope, the purpose of the Glendale Steps was to enable Akron residents to descend from South Walnut Street to a city park along Glendale Avenue. The 242 sandstone steps were dressed on site and hand laid by WPA laborers at a cost of \$22,000. Depression-era budget problems prevented The City of Akron from completing planned improvements to the park.

2 Daniel Guggenheim Airship Institute

1300 Triplett Boulevard

The University of Akron conducted aeronautical research at this site west of Fulton Airport terminal. More than 100 aeronautical experts from around the country attended its June 26, 1932 dedication.

3 Civic Theatre

182 South Main Street

One of the country's four remaining atmospheric theatres, the Civic was built in 1929 as Loew's Theatre. Architect John Eberson designed it to resemble a Moorish garden.



4 Mayflower Hotel

263 South Main Street

The Mayflower Hotel opened May 18, 1931 and was Akron's premier hotel for most of the 20th century. Renamed Mayflower Manor, it is now an apartment building.

5 FirstMerit

106 South Main Street

Known today as the FirstMerit Tower, the Central Depositors Bank & Trust Company opened July 23, 1931 and was Akron's first skyscraper.

6 YMCA

80 West Center Street

The YMCA opened March 10, 1931, providing a home for young men and a place for exercise and social activities. It was renovated into upscale apartments in the 1980s.

7 YWCA

146 South High Street

The YWCA on the northwest corner of High and Bowery Streets opened in January of 1931.

The City of Akron Fire Department and Personnel Office now occupy the building.

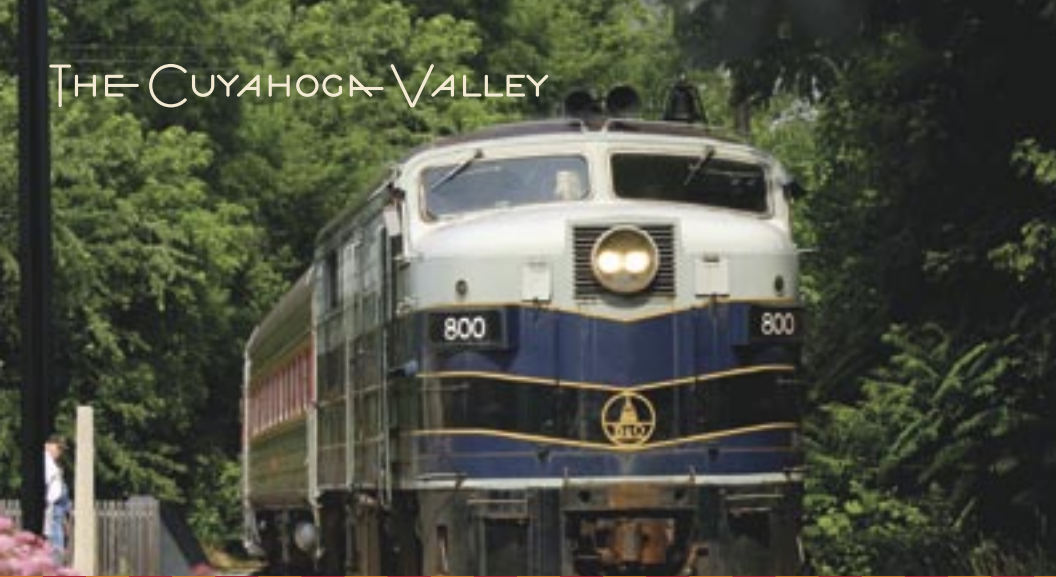


8 Charles Mayer Building

168 East Market Street

Built in 1929, this building served as the Akron Post Office until 1975 and was most recently home to Charles Mayer Studios. It is being converted into office space for Summa Health System.

THE CUYAHOGA VALLEY



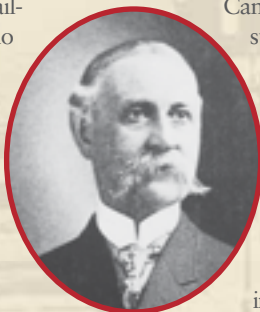
Cuyahoga Valley National Park

The CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio within the Ohio & Erie Canalway. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting.

Visitors can hike, bike, birdwatch, golf, fish, ski, ride Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad, explore the history of the Ohio & Erie Canal on a 20-mile section of the Towpath Trail, and attend national park ranger-guided programs, concerts, art exhibits, and more.

For more information, call (216) 524-1497 or (800) 445-9667

www.nps.gov/cuva/
www.dayinthevalley.com



1 The Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Line

Although rail transport was introduced to Northeast Ohio in the early 1850s, no line connected Cleveland, Akron, and Canton until 1880 when the Valley Railway was established. This line followed the route of the Cuyahoga River and the Ohio & Erie Canal through the Cuyahoga Valley and into Akron and Canton. In 1895, when the railroad suffered foreclosure due to competition with other lines, Cleveland railroad financier Sylvester Everett reorganized it as the Cleveland, Terminal, and Valley Line. In 1915, the line was purchased by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Passenger service ended in 1963, and the last freight train ran in 1985.

Today, these rails are owned by the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. In cooperation with the National Park Service, the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad offers tourist excursions through the Valley with stops in Akron and Canton.

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
Phone: 1-800-468-4070; 330-657-2000
www.cvsr.com



2 The Cascade Locks Park

is part of Akron's first industrial valley. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the park is in downtown Akron, linking the city to trails and recreation in the Cuyahoga Valley.

The area was once a hub of activity during the canal era with a series of seven locks in less than a mile. The area thrived with several mills and factories.

Today, visitors learn about the history of the area in the Cascade Locks Park by visiting the Mustill Store museum and exploring along the Towpath Trail while enjoying Akron's urban park.

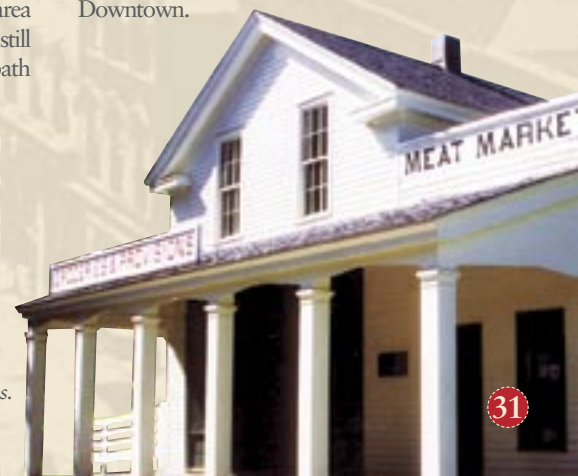
Cascade Locks Park Association
248 Ferndale St.
Akron, Ohio 44304

Phone: 330-374-5625
www.cascadelocks.org

3 The Hickory Street Corridor

Just northwest of Downtown Akron, and parallel to the Towpath and the Little Cuyahoga River, lies Hickory Street, a quiet, residential neighborhood that grew up around the Ohio & Erie Canal. This topographically unique part of Akron, much of which is situated within the Cascade Locks Historic District, has been defined by the City as an urban redevelopment area.

A new 70 home development based on the concept of New Urbanism is taking shape at the northern end of the corridor, with additional new homes expected soon at the southern end. The revitalization of this once old neighborhood is just one component of the City's efforts to bring new life to the area north of Downtown.



Above : A Valley Railway locomotive circa 1930s.
Right : The Mustill Store as it appears today.

How to Use the History Trails Passport

You are about to experience “Life in the Past Lane,” as you take your journey on Akron’s History Trails. On the opposite page is your Historic Downtown Akron Passport with 16 blocks, one for each historic site we’re celebrating this Summer.

This digest will provide you with a guide identifying many historic places in Akron. Many of them are in Downtown Akron. You will find explanations for each site, the address, web and phone information, normal hours, and accessibility.

Each site has its own special inked stamp that the attendant at the site will place on your passport. Since some locations may be closed when you visit, you can go to the headquarters for the History Trails Passport project, the Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3, where the attendant will stamp your passport for each site you have visited.

Admission to the Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3 is FREE and the exhibit is open every Friday evening from 6:30 p.m. - close, Saturday mornings from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and at other times by appointment or by chance. Call 330-375-2500 for more details.

Be aware that admission of \$5 is charged at Lock 3 during special festival events and on Saturday nights. Children under 48 inches tall are always free. For a schedule of events go to www.lock3live.com

You have until Labor Day to visit all 16 locations to be eligible for prizes. Just show us your fully-stamped passport at the Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3 to be entered in a drawing for great history prizes: “nooks & crannies” tours of Akron’s historic places, Akron history books and DVD’s, and historic memorabilia of our city.

The 2006 Akron History Trails project attracted over 100 individuals and families who completed all 22 passport stops, and the Scott and Carla Davenport family, with sons Eric and Evan picked their prize: dinner at Fire Station #2 on East Exchange Street. Joining the fire fighter feast were (l-r) Fire-medic Daniel Rosso; District Chief Dale Evans; Capt. Larry Whytself; Lt. Doug Bjerre; Fire-medic Mike DePaul; District Chief Dennis Stoneman; and Fire-medic Brett Baldinger.



Akron A.A. Archives	Akron Civic Theatre	Akron Firefighters Museum	Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3
Akron Police Museum	Akron-Summit County Public Library	Cascade Locks Park and Mustill Store	Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad
Dr. Bob's House	Glendale Cemetery	Hower House	McClain Gallery of Akron's Black History
Old Stone School	Perkins Stone Mansion & John Brown House	Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens	The University of Akron Archival Services